

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1.(Currently Amended) A method of remote monitoring supervisory information about maintenance of a hinge, for the hinge that rotatably supports an opening and closing member with a fixed member of an instrument or the like, the method comprising the steps of: detecting supervisory information about maintenance of the hinge; storing the detected supervisory information into a control IC chip fitted to the fixed member or the closed member; transmitting the supervisory information from the control IC chip to a maintenance management server through a communication network such as the Internet; and executing a maintenance management of the hinge by the maintenance management server based on the supervisory information.

2.(Original) The method of remote monitoring supervisory information about maintenance of a hinge according to claim 1, wherein the supervisory information about maintenance is at least one piece of information selected from among abnormal sound, an opening or closing number, a temperature, and torque of the hinge.

3.(Original) The method of remote monitoring supervisory information about maintenance of a hinge according to claim 1 or 2, wherein an abnormality of a hinge is detected based on the maintenance management.

4.(Original) The method of remote monitoring supervisory information about maintenance of a hinge according to claim 1 or 2, wherein an inspection and repair time is forecast based on the maintenance management.

5.(Currently Amended) A remote monitoring device that monitors supervisory information about maintenance of a hinge, for the hinge that rotatably supports an opening and closing member with a fixed member of an instrument or the like, the device comprising: a unit that detects supervisory information about maintenance of the hinge; a control IC chip that stores the supervisory information detected by the detecting unit, and transmits the supervisory information to a communication network like the Internet; and a maintenance management server that is connected to the communication network to obtain the supervisory information and execute a maintenance management of the hinge.

6.(Original) The remote monitoring device according to claim 5, wherein the detecting unit obtains at least one piece of information selected from among

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abnormal sound, an opening or closing number, a temperature, and torque of the hinge.